CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 12 AUGUST 1994 FROM THE LEADER OF THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE CONFERENCE ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING A NOTE REGARDING THE PROPOSAL OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND FOR A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EXPORTS OF ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES

I have the honour to send you herewith a Note regarding the proposal of the United Kingdom for a Code of Conduct for exports of anti-personnel landmines.

In view of the urgency of the situation, the United Kingdom is proposing an ad hoc, free-standing arrangement to which all States will be able to subscribe. This will neither conflict with national measures, nor prejudice or stand in the way of any subsequent actions which may be taken by the international community to deal with the landmine problem.

I would be grateful if you could see that this note be circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed) M.C.S. Weston
Ambassador

GE.94-63732 (E)

PROPOSED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR EXPORTS OF ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES

1. States decide to implement the terms of Protocol II of the 1980 Weaponry Convention. (*)

2. In view of the terrible injuries caused to civilians in many countries by the irresponsible use of landmines, States will not export any anti-personnel landmines in their possession to countries not party to Protocol II of the 1980 Weaponry Convention.

2 bis. In addition, States observing this Code will not exchange with each other any anti-personnel landmines which are not fitted with a self-destructing or self-neutralising mechanism.

3. States decide to implement any national legislation required to bring these measures into force. The measures will include end-user provisions to ensure that anti-personnel landmines supplied in accordance with the Code do not come into the possession of states or groups not observing the Code.

4. States decide to continue all endeavours to find a comprehensive solution to the overwhelming humanitarian problems created by the proliferation of landmines. This includes giving favourable consideration to requests for aid in mine clearance and training for demining.

5. States call upon all States Parties to the 1980 Weaponry Convention to subscribe to, and on other States also to implement, the provisions of this Code.

6. States decide to exchange information on their export control provisions (and advice for those who need to introduce new measures).

7. States will supply all other Code subscribers with information if any state finds reason under the Code to deny a request for sales of anti-personnel landmines (to ensure others are alert to possible approaches by the same customer).

8. States will exchange information and co-ordinate humanitarian assistance on demining and related activities.

9. States will consider possible action to be taken in case of a suspected infraction by a subscriber to the Code (to consist, initially, of pressure from other subscribers on the state in question to explain itself and to conform).

(*) ie, even if a given state has not ratified this protocol.